

# Says Negroes' Greatest Period Of Progress Has Come In Last 15 Years

NEW YORK. — (NNPA) — Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell held, colored children are going to said Tuesday night that in the last school at Central high unattended, 15 years colored citizens have advanced further in employment, education, political participation and economic well being than in all the years since the Reconstruction era.

Addressing the "Equal Opportunity Day" dinner of the National Urban League at the Hotel Commodore, Mr. Mitchell described these achievements as "not only a major breakthrough for a people long subject to the absurd injustices of discrimination," but also as providing "the firm foundation for continued and lasting progress."

Mr. Mitchell and Jacob Potofsky, international president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, were honored for "distinguished contribution to the cause of equal opportunity for all citizens" at the testimonial dinner.

The date of the \$50-a-plate dinner, sponsored by a special committee of 100 business, labor and civic leaders, headed by Nelson A. Rockefeller, was the 94th anniversary of President Lincoln's Gettysburg address. The league selected this date because of Lincoln's concern that "all have an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life."

The untiring efforts of the Urban League to insure fair and equal treatment for all citizens "have been a great contribution toward the cause of social and economic justice within the United States," Mr. Mitchell said.

The Labor Secretary praised "the patient and persistent activities" of individuals like Mr. Potofsky, operating to further the ideal of equality, and also the activities of the government and the basic goodwill of the American people, who have insisted that progress is the free birthright of all Americans.

"Against this formidable body of opinion and influence there arises at times an isolated but appalling display of primitive prejudice and hatred," Mr. Mitchell declared, adding:

"The events at Little Rock understandably depress and dishearten us. The nation is appalled by such violent and demagogic disregard of law, but, at the same time, we can be heartened by the support the American people have given to President Eisenhower's firm and decisive action at Little Rock."

"This increase in educational opportunity and participation would be without value, either individually or nationally, unless the skills and knowledge developed are made available and put to work," Mr. Mitchell said.

"If the doors of discrimination remain closed upon qualified graduates, then the education remains useless."

The Labor Secretary also reported "much progress" in the widening of occupational opportunity.

The clause against race or religious discrimination in employment contained in government contracts, Mr. Mitchell said, each year has effect in 6,000,000 contracts involving over \$15,000,000 in goods and services.

He said the President's Committee on Government Contracts of which he is vice-chairman under the chairmanship of Vice President Nixon, "has been engaged in a successful effort to make that discrimination clause not a mere collection of words but a truly effective instrument for the prevention of injustice."

As a result of the committee's efforts, Mr. Mitchell said, "In packing houses, public utilities, the oil industry, the aircraft industry, telephone companies, and hundreds of others—both in the North and the South—skilled positions and promotions are becoming commonplace for the colored work-

In announcing the honors to Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Potofsky, Thomas W. Kheel, president of the National Urban League, said recent Russian scientific advances make it an "absolute necessity" that this country use its "full manpower potential," adding that this cannot be done as long as there is discrimination in employment and education.

Other speakers at the dinner included Mr. Rockefeller, chairman of the dinner committee; Lester Granger, executive director of the league, and George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor Congress of Industrial Organizations, who spoke briefly in praise of Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Potofsky.

"These figures do not mean a quick and easy end to discrimination," Mr. Mitchell said, "Of course not. But they do outline a real story of progress in America, and it is one too often overlooked in the welter of other news that fits better into headlines."

The Labor Secretary also revealed these facts: Last year over 98 per cent of colored children between seven and 13 were attending school. Thirty-two states have no segregation, and these states contain two-thirds of the population.

In the South itself, in the first three years since the Supreme Court decision against segregated schools, 751 southern school districts have been desegregated.

Colored college enrollment is increasing at a rate six times that of white. Colored college enrollment now numbers 196,000—an increase of 622 per cent since 1930.



## Economic Leadership Crying Need For Negro Progress Says Norman L. McGhee

*Thurs. 1-24-57*  
CLEVELAND, OHIO — "Economic leadership is the crying need to insure greater Negro progress in 1957," declared Norman L. McGhee, head of the investment brokerage firm of McGhee & Company, in a statement issued here this week as a part of a review of business conditions among Negroes during 1956.

In the statement McGhee said: "Today, January 1, 1957, is the beginning of a New Year. For the American Negro will this year be one of outstanding progress, or will it find him at year's end, still begging for what he needs, and buying what he thinks he wants? Seventeen billion dollars, it is estimated, annually pass thru the hands of the Negro population of the United States. During 1956, the recorded spending by the Negro for automobiles alone, must easily show the astounding total of one billion dollars. The amount spent for wines, beer, and liquors must account for another half-billion dollars. If half of this vast sum—something like 750 million—were set aside and channeled into productive investments, the resulting economic gains to the entire Negro citizenry would amaze both the Negro and the entire world."

*Charles E. Smith*  
Continuing, he related: "There are over one-hundred thousand industrial corporations in the United States. Of these, except those commonly referred to as Negro-owned and controlled, probably not a single important industrial corporation, bank or insurance company can boast of having a Negro as a member of its directorate. Yet, it is reliably reported that Negro citizens have on deposit in banks in New York, 400 million dollars; in Chicago, 300 million; in Philadelphia, 100 million; in Detroit, 90 million; in Cleveland, 60 million; and in Pittsburgh, 40 million. In any one of these cities, a well-

directed program suggesting investment in the stock of one of each city's outstanding banks, would lead to Negro representation on its board of directors."

McGhee further pointed out that: "The most challenging task in the United States today, is the proper direction of the enormous potential of its Negro citizenry. This group constitutes better than 10 per cent of the nation's population. Estimated annual earnings of this group are some 17 billion dollars. There is a crying need for conservation of part of these earnings and the channelling of the Negro's surplus earnings into investments that will bring larger participation by him in the total American economy. The increased educational, political, and cultural development of the Negro clearly indicates that the Negro is ready for full citizenship responsibility and equality. Only one factor seems lacking—that is economic security."

"The remedy for attaining economic security," McGhee asserted, "is already in the Negro's hands. That remedy is leadership. A new type of leader that will undertake to awaken the masses of the Negro people to the wisdom of setting aside a part of their present earnings for future economic security. A leadership that will show the Negro how to become part owners of the industries which have made these United States the great nation that it is. A leadership that will insist that the Negro make whatever sacrifice necessary to insure for himself and his children participation in the economic affairs of their country. A leadership which itself, will point the way by itself acquiring larger ownership in the agencies which control the American economy."

McGhee's firm, the first headed by a Negro to engage in the investment securities business, has just ended its fifth year of

operations, having handled during the past year upwards of a quarter-million dollars in diversified investments securities for its customers. The firm now is licensed to engage in the securities business in Illinois, North Carolina, and South Carolina, in addition to Ohio, in which state it maintains its home office.

## Negro Residents In North Carolina Make Progress Records

*Thurs. 1-25-57*  
SIX N. C. COUNTIES IN FINALS FOR "COUNTY OF THE YEAR" AWARD  
Greensboro, N. C. — Six North Carolina Counties have been named as finalists for the 1956 "County of the Year" Award, with special reference to Negro progress.

Included in the list were: Person, Edgecombe, Iredell, Dublin Union and Nash Counties. These counties on basis of outstanding progress made by their Negro residents during the past year, are in competition for the \$500 Rural Progress Award, given jointly by Dr. Clarence Poe, Raleigh, publisher of the Progressive Farmer, a prominent farm journal and the Agricultural Association of A & T College, an organization of professional agricultural workers at the college.

The announcement was made this week by Dr. W. E. Reed, dean School of Agriculture at A & T College and chairman of the State Rural Progress Committee.

He stated that the finalists were in competition with 60 other counties now using services of the various agricultural agencies. They were adjudged first winners by reason of outstanding progress in the following areas: desirable adjustment in agricultural practices, community improvement, improved homemaking and family living better opportunities for rural youth and cooperation between all agencies, groups and individuals.

The State committee will visit each of the communities during late January and early February for the final evaluation and the decision will be released immediately following Reed told reports.

Winners in previous years include: Hertford, 1952; Orange, 1953; Sampson, 1954 and Nash, 1955.

Members of the committee in addition to Dr. Reed are: S. B.

Simmons, assistant supervisor of Vocational Agriculture; R. E. Jones, state agent, N. C. Extension Service; E. F. Corbett, public relations director, all of A&T College; A. W. Solomon, Greensboro, field representative, N. C. Farm Bureau Federation and Dr. Jones E. Jeffries, tobacco marketing specialist, Production Marketing Administration, both of Greensboro; Mrs. Ruth Lawrence Woodson, supervisor, N. C. Negro Elementary Schools; Dr. S. F. Duncan, supervisor, N. C. Negro High Schools and J. F. Larkins, consultant, State Department of Public Welfare, all of Raleigh and Mrs. Lucy F. James, Durham, supervisor, Vocational Home Economics.

## Exhibit Shows Negro Progress

*Thurs. 1-25-57*  
WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Plans have been completed for an exhibit here during the Jamestown Festival, portraying the achievements of Negroes in America since 1619. The exhibit is being built on the National Memorial park, and is slated to open May 13-31. It is expected that more than 2 million persons will visit the exhibit between May and November.

## Progress Of Negro Is Described By Secretary Mitchell

NEW YORK, N. Y. — Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell has documented the progress made by the American Negro in the past 15 years and declared that American citizens of Negro birth have advanced further, in term of employment, education, political participation, and economic well-being, in the past 15 years than in the years since the Reconstruction Era.

*36*  
Speaking at the Equal Opportunity Day Dinner of the Urban League in New York, the Secretary revealed that the present purchasing power of our Negro citizens is greater than that of the entire population of Canada — in excess

of \$17 billion.

A third of American Negroes own their own homes. They own 200 insurance companies with 5 million policyholders. They own 30 savings and loan associations with combined assets of over \$60 million. They own 14 banks with total assets of \$40 million.

Other figures developed by the Department of Labor and released by Secretary Mitchell showed that the Negro wage earner makes 4 1-2 times what he made in 1940. And of equal significance, his place in the occupational ladder has gone up. Negro proprietors and managers have increased 131 percent, men in professional jobs have increased by 103 percent, craftsmen and foremen by 112 percent, operators and technicians by 181 percent, and clerical and sales workers by an amazing 223 percent -- all since 1940.



# Mitchell Cites Progress By Negroes in 15 Years

New York, N. Y.  
By Arch Parsons Jr.

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell said last night that in the last fifteen years Negroes in the United States have advanced further economically, politically and in education "than in all the years since the Reconstruction Era."

Mr. Mitchell described this advance as "a major breakthrough for a people long subjected to the absurd injustices of discrimination," but he added, citing the Little Rock situation, that "there arises at times an isolated but appalling display of primitive prejudice and hatred."

Speaking at the "Equal Opportunity Day" dinner of the National Urban League at the Hotel Commodore—where he and Jacob Potofsky, international president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, were honored for "distinguished contribution to the cause of equal opportunity for all citizens"—Mr. Mitchell said that "behind the Little Rock," however, the story of Negro advancement is "one of much more lasting significance to the future of our country."

He reported that a recent survey by the Department of Labor revealed the following "surprising facts":

The purchasing power of Negroes in the country is now more than \$17,000,000,000.

## Notes Wage Rise

The Negro wage earner makes four and a half times as much as he did in 1940.

A generation ago, Negro workers accounted for 3 per cent of civil service jobs in Washington. Today, they make up 24 per cent of the total.

Thirty-two of the forty-eight states, containing two-thirds of the nation's population, have no school segregation. Since the 1952 ruling against school segregation by the United States Supreme Court, 751 Southern school districts have been integrated.

A third of the Negroes in the country own their own homes. In addition, Negroes own more than 200 insurance companies with 5,000,000 policy holders, thirty savings and loan associations with combined assets of more than \$60,000,000

and fourteen banks with total assets of \$40,000,000.

In announcing the honors to Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Potofsky, Theodore W. Kheel, president of the National Urban League, asserted that recent Russian scientific advances make it an "absolute necessity" that this country use its "full manpower potential," adding that this cannot be done as long as there is discrimination in employment and education.

## Cites Rights Laws

Mr. Potofsky addressed himself to the same theme, declaring that "we are now reduced to thinking about basic survival" and that "we are now reduced to thinking about basic survival" and that "we cannot afford the luxury of prejudices." He said the recent enactment of civil rights legislation was "a step forward" and expressed the hope that the civil rights commission recently appointed by President Eisenhower will make progress in "softening last-ditch resistance" and will not "tamely acquiesce in policies which aggravate tension."

He said the "fastest and surest" way to end discrimination in jobs is through full employment, pointing out that war-time fair employment practices were adopted through a "need to utilize every man and woman" and not through any sudden change in national attitudes.

In this connection, Mr. Mitchell, who is vice-chairman of the President's Committee on Government Contracts, reported that an anti-discrimination clause is now included in 6,000,000 contracts involving \$15,000,000,000 in goods and services.

Other speakers at the dinner included Nelson Rockefeller, chairman of the dinner committee; Lester Granger, executive director of the league, and George Meany, president of the A. F. L.-C. I. O., who spoke briefly in praise of Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Potofsky.

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# John Hope Franklin to Lecture In State Educational Centers

*Block Dispatch*  
*Oklahoma City, Okla.*  
**Drumwright Rodeo Taken Into Semi-Centennial Program**  
*Fr. 5-3-57*

Following a delightful luncheon in the snack bar at Langston university, Friday night, the Promotional Committee of the ~~Semi-Centennial Commission~~ met in the president's offices to dispatch the work that had been laid out for the committee by President T. P. Scott of Bartlesville.

A letter was read by Dr. R. P. Perry, of the Langston faculty and addressed to President G. Lamar Harrison, from Dr. John Hope Franklin of Brooklyn college, in which Dr. Franklin agrees to come and deliver addresses for one week in Oklahoma colleges this coming fall, at the call of the Centennial Commission.

Dr. Franklin, in addition to being the son of a Creek Freedman, holds the chair of history at Brooklyn college, Brooklyn. He has done graduate work in the old world, as well as having attended the principal colleges in America, and it is expected that he will in these lectures be able to make one of the most cultural contributions to the Centennial program.

Dr. Harrison has also contacted the major colleges in the state and Dr. Franklin has been added to the lecture program of these colleges. Dr. Harrison was directed to write Dr. Franklin confirming the agreements made in his letter. The distinguished historian will remain in Oklahoma for one week. A lecture committee was immediately named by Chairman Scott, to accompany Dr. Franklin during his lecture tour of Oklahoma colleges.

*Block Dispatch*  
The Promotional Committee also adopted Friday night the Drumwright Rodeo as one of the attractions to be fostered this year by the Semi-Centennial Commission. The Drumwright Rodeo is under the management of Mr. Henry Smith, a member of the Promotional Committee. Mr. Smith during the Friday night conference said he was planning to suggest to his Rodeo friends at Drumwright that they make a substantial donation to the Promotional Committee.

*Fr. 5-3-57*  
Editor Roscoe Dunfee, member of the Semi-Centennial Commis-

sion announced that "Upper Boulders in the Sun" the play to be presented by Langston university, appears for the first time in the Centennial Bulletin of Events (see May issue) and that the lectures of Dr. John Hope Franklin will find place in the June issue of the same bulletin.

The Promotional Committee adjourned to meet at the call of Chairman Scott in Drumwright, where Mr. Henry Smith, who heads the Rodeo program there, promised a royal reception. Mr. L. E. Richardson, Oklahoma City, was named to head the finance committee.